

The University of Texas at Austin

Austin, TX • Public School



The most comprehensive guide to free speech on campus — anywhere

Because a true university education requires freedom of expression.

The College Free Speech Rankings are based on student surveys, campus policies, and recent speech-related controversies.

OVERALL RANK

124 ▲

/261

▲ 43 FROM 2025

GRADE

D -

▲ F FROM 2025

CONTROVERSIES

1

0 FROM 2026

Overview

The University of Texas at Austin ranks 124 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 60 and a D- speech climate grade.

UT Austin lands in the bottom 25 for “Administrative Support,” meaning students doubt officials will defend free speech. It ranks in the bottom 50 for “Self-Censorship” and “Comfort Expressing Ideas,” showing students frequently stay silent and feel uncomfortable expressing their views on contentious topics.

The University of Texas System’s board has affirmed the pro-free speech Chicago Statement, which applies to UT Austin, and has also affirmed institutional neutrality. The campus retains a “yellow light” Spotlight rating and should revise student policies to earn a “green light” Spotlight rating. Given its weak showing on “Administrative Support,” administrators should respond clearly and forcefully to defend free speech whenever censorship occurs or is demanded.

[View the Full Spotlight Rating](#)

If you are a school administrator and would like to discuss your rating, reach out to speechcodes@fire.org.

Visit our website, rankings.fire.org, for more information.

Spotlight Rating

Yellow

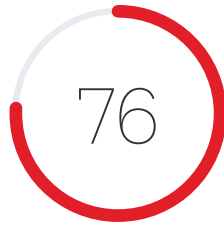


FIRE’s Spotlight database annually rates regulations on student expression based on the extent to which they restrict free speech.

HIGHLIGHTS



45% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



76% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



37% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

6.59 : 1

There are roughly 6.59 liberal students for every one conservative student.

Institutional Neutrality

ADOPTED



Chicago Statement for Free Speech

ADOPTED



SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D

▲ INCREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C+

▲ INCREASE

OPENNESS

D+

▲ INCREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D-

— NO CHANGE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

— NO CHANGE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

DEPLATFORMINGS

1